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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT, FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1937, including a summary of parts of your Sanitary Inspector's Report for the same period.

General Provisions of Health Services.

G. Macleod, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,	M. O. H. (part time).
I. J. Leach, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., F.I.A.S.,	San. Inspector and Surveyor.
Alan S. Chubb, A.I.A.S.,	Ass. San. Inspector & Shop Inspector.

During the first quarter of the year there was a fair amount of moderately severe influenza, continued from the last quarter of the previous year, and as may be seen from the returns, nine deaths have been attributed to this cause. Apart from this there has been no serious epidemic.

I am glad to report that arrangements have now been completed for the reception of infectious cases into the Bristol Isolation Hospital at Ham Green, and that there is a modern ambulance for the conveyance of such cases.

The local ambulance, the local Cottage Hospital, the District Nursing Association and the various clinics in the district continue to contribute to the wellbeing and health of the community, and it is satisfactory to record that under recent arrangements by the County Council, we in this northern part of the county are permitted to submit swabs from urgent diphtheritic cases to the Health Department at Bristol for examination and report. I feel sure that this will be much appreciated by the medical practitioners in the area.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3292
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937	7764
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to rate books	2481
Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate	£71,455; £279.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:

Live Births	Total	Male	Female		
Legitimate	99	36	33	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	13
Illegitimate	2	-	2		
Still Births	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	19.4
Deaths	134	55	79	Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	10.8

Deaths from puerperal causes:

No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	Nil
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	Nil
Total	...	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1000 live births	29.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	29.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	16
" " Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age)	Nil

Average age at death ...	65.5 yrs.
Comparability Factor ...	0.63

Two infant deaths under one year were due to prematurity, and the third to pre-natal malnutrition. Among the chief causes of death heart disease, circulatory diseases and "stroke" account for 44, cancer for 16, and influenza for 9.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

We are fortunate in having an abundant and pure water supply which is the constant care of the local company, whose regular examinations are supplemented by frequent bacteriological examination by the local authority. At no time has there been any hint of contamination in the reports from the analyst.

There has been less trouble from contamination of the river this year; and the sewerage accommodation is now under review, having regard to the considerable building operations in progress in the lower parts of the town. This is a matter which must command the constant attention of the Sanitary Committee.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:

Live Births	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	79	36	33	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ... 15
Illegitimate	2	-	2	
Still Births	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 19.4
Deaths	134	55	79	Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ... 10.9

Deaths from puerperal causes:

No. 29 Puerpera sepsis ... Nil
No. 30 Other puerperal causes Nil
Total ... Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Rate per 1000 live births
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... 29.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... 29.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 16
" " Phthisis (all ages) ... Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs. of age) Nil

Average age at death ... 65.5 yrs.
Comparability Factor ... 0.65

Two infant deaths under one year were due to prematurity, and the third to pre-natal malnutrition. Among the other causes of death heart disease, circulatory diseases and "strokes" account for 46, cancer for 16, and influenza for 9.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

We are fortunate in having an abundant and pure water supply which is the constant care of the local company. Other regular conditions are supplemented by frequent bacteriological examination by the local authority. As no sign has there been any hint of contamination in the reports from the analyst.

There has been less trouble from contamination of the river this year; and the sewerage accommodation is now under review, having regard to the considerable building operations in progress in the lower parts of the town. This is a matter which must command the constant attention of the Sanitary Committee.

The method of collection and removal of household refuse in open vehicles leaves room for improvement. Nuisance from smoke is not a problem in the district, where we have little in the way of industrial undertakings. It is satisfactory to report the commencement of operations to lessen the silting up of the marine lake with mud and sand from the Channel, and the installation of a pump for the renewal of the bathing water at times of low tide. No action has been necessary with regard to the treatment of infested houses. The local schools have been regularly inspected, and their condition found satisfactory.

Sanitary Matters Dealt with:-

Defective drains repaired by Owners	33
Defective closets made good	16
New Inspection Chambers built	18
Sinks trapped ...	20
Rooms disinfected ...	16
Bedding disinfected ...	18
General nuisance abated ...	61

Housing.

Definite progress has been made with the re-conditioning of houses and basements and with the provision of new houses, but there is still public demand for more, and the Council have wisely decided on completion of the existing programme to review this demand and formulate a further scheme to meet this need. It must be borne in mind that we have a considerable and increasing proportion of elderly people and young couples, with small or no families, for whom small houses only are required; indeed at the present time houses which could accommodate a larger family are found to be occupied by such couples.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	18
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	13
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	13
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	25

The method of collection and removal of household refuse in open vehicles leaves room for improvement. Nuisance from smoke is not a problem in the district, where we have little in the way of industrial undertakings. It is satisfactory to report the commencement of operations to lessen the silting up of the marine lake with mud and sand from the Channel, and the installation of a pump for the removal of the bathing water at times of low tide. No action has been necessary with regard to the treatment of infected houses. The local schools have been regularly inspected, and their condition found satisfactory.

Sanitary Matters Dealt with:-

Defective drains repaired by Owners	35
Defective closets made good	16
New Inspection Chambers built	18
Sinks trapped ...	20
Rooms disinfected ...	16
Bedding disinfected ...	18
General nuisance abated ...	61

Housing.

Definite progress has been made with the re-conditioning of houses and basements and with the provision of new houses, but there is still public demand for more, and the Council have wisely decided on completion of the existing programme to review this demand and formulate a further scheme to meet this need. It must be borne in mind that we have a considerable and increasing proportion of elderly people and young couples, with small or no families, for whom small houses only are required; indeed at the present time houses which could accommodate a larger family are found to be occupied by such couples.

SECTION D.

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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 65

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 18

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 15

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 15

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 25

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation 10

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 10

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Serving of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...

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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part VI. Overcrowding:-

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	11
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	62
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	28
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The milk supply is under constant supervision and the analyst's reports on samples submitted have been generally satisfactory. But there are still several smallholdings where conditions are not conducive to the production of clean milk. These have already been reported upon.

There are on the Register:

Producers	29
Producer-Retailers ...	17
Distributors only ...	13
Licenced Distributors for Grade A, T.T.Milk	3
Licenced Distributor for Pasteurised Milk	1
Pasteurised milk (schools), samples examined	12
Other samples examined ...	12

There has been a general improvement in the quality of meat found at slaughter. Other foodstuffs have called for little or no official action.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed, (if known)	376		241	2306	643
Number inspected					

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CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED. (continued).

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned.				1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	2				5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3				
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.3				1.3

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

We have been singularly free from infectious diseases during the year. Two cases of Diphtheria, remnants of the previous year's epidemic, were treated at the local hospital, and two other cases cropped up in August as a result of infection contracted outside the town. These were satisfactorily dealt with at home, and since then we have had no fresh cases. In August a boy was found to be suffering from enteric fever, and investigation of all the circumstances definitely pointed to an infection contracted in the Midlands. All the contacts were carefully watched and examined, and no further cases occurred. The boy made a satisfactory recovery at Ham Green Hospital, Bristol.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED. (continued).

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
All diseases present					
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.				1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.					5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3				
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.3				1.3

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	4	2	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever ...	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	21	-	8
Other diseases generally notifiable: Erysipelas	3	-	-
Other diseases notifiable locally	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during year 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 -	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	3	2	1	-	3	3	-	1

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge once again the constant help afforded me by all of the various officials, and by the Chairmen and members of the several Committees.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

30th June, 1938. G. Macleod

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Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	4	2	Nil
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) ...	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever ...	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	21	-	8
Other diseases generally notifiable: Myasthenia	3	-	-
Other diseases notifiable locally	-	-	-

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New Cases and Mortality during year 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 -	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	3	2	1	-	3	3	-	1

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge once again the constant help afforded me by all of the various officials, and by the Chairmen and members of the several Committees.

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Medical Officer of Health.

30th June, 1938.